



Department of Justice

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Western District of Kentucky

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OWENSBORO DRUG DEALER SENTENCED TO 4 YEARS

– Admitted his role in bringing \$2.77 million in illegal drugs to Kentucky

OWENSBORO, KY - **John Little**, age 60, of Owensboro, Kentucky, in Daviess County, was sentenced to 4 years imprisonment in United States District Court, Owensboro, Kentucky, for conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute marijuana, U.S. Attorney David L. Huber of the Western District of Kentucky announced today. Joseph H. McKinley, Jr., Judge, United States District Court, also sentenced Little to 5 years supervised release following incarceration. There is no parole in the federal judicial system.

Little pled guilty and admitted that beginning in early February 2003 through April 2005, he conspired with David Frederick, Walter Willis, and Kermit Shrull to have loads of marijuana transported from Texas to Kentucky for distribution. The case was initiated when Louisville DEA agents received information from the San Antonio, Texas, DEA office that drug traffickers in Texas were transporting loads of marijuana to an individual residing in Owensboro, Kentucky. Recorded telephone conversations among and between the various conspirators, obtained through a court-approved wiretap, confirmed the drug trafficking activity between South Texas and Western Kentucky. Over 1,100 pounds of marijuana was transported from February 2003 through April 2005. The conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine involved over 3 pounds. The street value of the marijuana was approximately \$2,640,000.00, and the street value of the methamphetamine was approximately \$136,000.00.

The marijuana originated from Mexico and would be supplied to Little, Frederick, Willis, and Shrull via Willie Guillermo Estrada, who resided in Texas. Haralia Lofts was a courier who transported several loads of marijuana from Texas to Kentucky. In addition to transporting marijuana, Lofts would also pick-up money and jewelry that was to be taken to Estrada as payment for the marijuana shipments. The loads of marijuana would be taken to various locations for packaging and subsequent distribution, including: 7313 Swann Lane, Robards, Kentucky and 101 North Kelsey, Evansville, Indiana.

In early January 2005, Jose Martin Perez-Espinoza and Fidel Villasenor joined the conspiracy as sources of supply for both marijuana and methamphetamine. It was during this same time that Frederick, Little, and Shrull conspired to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine.

On April 8, 2005, both Little and Frederick traveled to Houston, Texas to pick-up methamphetamine from Perez-Espinoza. Frederick transported the methamphetamine back to Kentucky. On April 11, 2005, a federal search warrant was executed at Frederick's residence located at 7313 Swann Lane, Robards, Kentucky, wherein the methamphetamine was found in his possession. During the search, several firearms were found in Frederick's residence, including a .45 caliber revolver that was found in close proximity to the pound of methamphetamine. These firearms were possessed by Frederick to protect his home and the drugs.

Frederick, Willis, Shrull, Estrada, Lofts, Perez-Espinoza, and Villasenor are all co-defendants in this case. Shrull and Perez-Espinoza pled guilty to the charges against them, and were sentenced on April 19, 2007. Frederick also pled guilty to the charges against him, and is scheduled to be sentenced on September 6, 2007. Willis, Estrada, and Villasenor were all found guilty after a six-day jury trial, and were sentenced on April 19, 2007. Lofts pled guilty after

three days of trial, and was sentenced on April 19, 2007.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Daniel P. Kinnicutt and Laura Hall, and was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

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